



## **National Aerosol Association Annual Meeting**

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer  
Scottsdale Marriott at McDowell Mountains  
Wednesday, February 22, 2012

**Good morning, and thank you for the opportunity to be with you today.**

**Let me start by telling you that the most important mentor in my life was my mother -- Edna Drinkwine.**

**My father worked as a civil servant at the Hawthorne Navy base in Western Nevada during World War II -- but he passed away when I was 11.**

**His death came after a long and painful battle with lung disease, contracted following years of exposure to the hazardous chemicals and toxic fumes on the base.**

**I'm sharing that with you because I know what it's like to**

**be a single mom, struggling to make ends meet, while caring for your family.**

**I saw my mother do it after my father died.**

**She had never worked outside the home, but my mother knew she had to support her family -- my brother and me. With meager savings, she bought a small dress shop, and I worked side-by-side with her until the time she sold it when I was 20 years old.**

**That dress shop was, really, a classroom for me – where I learned the importance of hard work, responsibility, honesty, integrity -- and yes, courage -- from my mother's example.**

**I think about my mother every day -- especially since I was challenged with the opportunity to become Governor of Arizona.**

**I say “challenged” because I inherited the worst state budget deficit in the nation!**

**Well, I am my mother's daughter. I was up to this challenge. I'm a problem solver.**

**I made a lot of painful decisions while fighting to bring Arizona back from the brink.**

**But, we did it. Arizona is back from the brink.**

**We now have a balanced and a positive cash balance for the first time in years.**

**Expenditures are down almost 20 percent – and the number of state employees is down almost 15 percent.**

**Our state government is smaller with state personnel spending falling \$200 million between 2007 and 2011 – a huge reduction!**

**Compared to the population we serve – our workforce is one of the most efficient in the nation.**

**We've rescaled our state's largest entitlement program to fit the budget we have -- not the budget we want.**

**We've consolidated, eliminated or privatized operations across state government. In the history of this state, no other Governor has cut state government more than I have.**

**Meanwhile, education in Arizona is being transformed. And, this transformation is supported by education and business leaders all across Arizona.**

**Called Arizona Ready, we're engaging families across the state to take charge of their children's education and to expect more from their public schools.**

**Our reform initiatives include adoption of higher academic standards to make sure our students can compete with the best in the world -- and prohibiting employment policies that give retention priority to teachers based on seniority.**

**Seventeen years after we adopted the Charter School Law, Arizona is on its second generation of 15-year**

**charter schools, -- including the best charter schools in the nation.**

**A terrific success, yes.**

**But, additional reforms are needed to promote economic expansion in our state --**

**– including improving Arizona's economic competitiveness -- bringing needed reforms to K-12 and higher education -- modernizing state government including personnel reform -- and challenging a federal government that has exceeded its constitutional authority.**

**Now, I know most of you in this room know about the burden of excessive regulation.**

**You deal with those excesses every day – even in light of the tremendous progress that's been made toward more healthful air.**

**The auto industry has vastly reduced emissions from vehicles, we've adopted our own cleaner-burning gasoline program, our local power plants have modernized and installed emissions controls, and Arizona has the most stringent vehicle emissions inspection program in the country.**

**Still, even when states achieve standards set for environmental pollution, it remains difficult to meet ever changing standards and expect to achieve environmental improvement in a cost-effective and common sense manner.**

**Reforms are needed that will give states the tools to manage environmental risks -- and take approaches that capitalize on innovations that will simultaneously allow us to grow our economies and improve the quality of life.**

**The EPA and our Arizona Department of Environmental Quality both have roles in protecting our environment.**

**But, let's face it, sometimes the EPA has exhibited a lack of understanding of the unique issues facing our arid southwest.**

**For example, ADEQ is attempting to intervene in an EPA lawsuit over regional haze in the Grand Canyon.**

**Under the Clean Air Act, States are given the responsibility to develop air quality plans to address issues like regional haze.**

**EPA has proposed a settlement that doesn't represent what's best for the state of Arizona and that could be harmful to Arizona's struggling economy.**

**By intervening, ADEQ hopes to stop the settlement and ensure that Arizona's rights are protected in resolution of the lawsuit.**

**We want to work with EPA to protect the environment, but we will challenge EPA at every turn to make sure that Arizona has a seat at the table to protect Arizona's interests.**

**After all, those closest to the issue have the best information to develop solutions.**

**Environmental policy should not be determined through litigation negotiated at the federal level at the expense of Arizonans.**

**Instead, my career, my record, my life ... are rooted in telling the truth and in pursuing freedom.**

**My truth shares the spirit of our Founding Father's quest to "form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty."**

**When I took the oath of office, I promised the people of Arizona we would rededicate ourselves to the pursuit of freedom.**

**And, that's exactly what we're doing.**



**Here, in Arizona, you're free to work and earn a living -- to build a business -- to build a life.**

**You're free to find and speak the truth about government, and those who lead it.**

**You're free to move from place to place – you're free to choose the best school for your children – whether it's in a public institution, or in your own home.**

**You're free to pursue a higher education in our great research universities and our community colleges, at a cost that will not leave you under a crushing debt.**

**And, finally, you're free to contemplate the hand of God in the forms and colors of our breathtakingly beautiful state, and upon the hearts of its diverse people.**

**As a western Governor, let me close with the famous prophesy of an English poet – one that Margaret Thatcher quoted to Ronald Reagan, as he headed to his California ranch in retirement:**

**"And not by eastern windows only -- when daylight comes -- comes in the light; "In front the sun climbs slow -- how slowly. "But westward, look. The land is bright."**

**Thank you, may God bless you -- and the National Aerosol Association -- and may God always bless and protect the United States of America.**